

Then there is nondefense discretionary spending, which I referred to earlier and which Senator DOMENICI, in the second budget that he laid down here, would cut very deeply. He would cut from an unconstrained baseline \$263 billion out of this category. That is a tremendous amount of money out of defense and nondefense. Those two are called discretionary spending. From the nondefense discretionary side, the budget he just presented would cut \$183 billion out of a total that we are scheduled to spend over the next 5 years of \$1.5 trillion. Again, what we are talking about there is education, roads, bridges, airports, parks, law enforcement.

Do we really want to be cutting those areas in the magnitude of the budget that the chairman of the Budget Committee has laid down? I do not think so. I do not think Senator DOMENICI thinks so. In fact, I am quite confident he does not think so. He is just making a point with the second budget he laid down of what it would take even with no tax cuts to achieve unified balance. Remember, unified balance is not balance at all. That is when you take all the money from all the trust funds and throw those into the pot to claim that you are balancing the budget.

I hope this puts in some perspective what it is that we face this year. This is not going to be easy. That is, hopefully, the message that I have communicated here. When you look at what the scheduled revenue is of the Federal Government—maybe we could show that chart again—\$9.3 trillion are the expenditures, and we are scheduled to have \$8.5 trillion of revenue. If the first thing you do is take \$200 billion out of the revenue column, now you are at \$8.3 trillion, and you have \$9.3 trillion of expenditures, you have \$1 trillion added to the national debt. Is that what we want to do? To have the kind of massive tax cut that some have talked about, you have to borrow it all. Does that make sense? Should we borrow money to have a tax cut? Does that make sense to people? We already have a \$5 trillion national debt. How deep in the hole are we going to go around here before we respond?

Mr. President, these are the major categories of Federal spending. I think one can see that if we are going to be serious about balancing the budget and doing it in an honest way, we have a tall order in front of us. Talking about tax cuts of \$200 billion over the next 5 years, which our friends on the other side of the aisle have put up as their Senate bill No. 2, really makes no sense to me. It especially makes no sense when you look at what happens to that tax cut proposal in the second 5 years. This is not just a matter of reaching some kind of balance in the year 2002. We have to be looking over the horizon here, because the real challenge is, where is this all going? The real challenge is we have the baby boom generation coming along, and they are going to start retiring in the year 2012, and

they will double the number of people almost overnight eligible for our major programs.

We are headed for a circumstance in which, if we fail to change course, we are going to either have an 80 percent tax rate—yes, 80 percent; does anybody believe we will do that?—or a one-third cut in all benefits. Cut Social Security one-third, cut Medicare one-third, cut all veterans benefits one-third. Those are the kind of draconian options that will be presented to this Congress and a future President if we fail to act.

We have a responsibility to respond. I submit that having tax cuts of \$200 billion over the next 5 years that explode to \$500 billion over the next 10 years is not rational, is not responsible, is not the way to begin to fill in the hole. I have never seen anybody that went out to fill in a hole and the first thing they did was dig it deeper. It makes very little sense to me.

I hope that Senator DOMENICI, by presenting these budget options this afternoon, sobers up people on both sides of the aisle here, sobers up those who think that we can have massive tax cuts. That is not in the cards. That is not serious if people are going to be honest with the long-term fiscal imbalances this country faces. That is not facing it head on or squarely. Also, I hope it stands as a message to people on my side of the aisle, some who are opposed, for example, to correcting the Consumer Price Index that we use to adjust for the cost of living. The evidence is overwhelming that we are making an overcorrection for the cost of living by as much as perhaps 1 percent a year. It sounds like a small amount, but it makes a big difference over time. That 1 percent mistake will cost the U.S. Government \$1 trillion over the next 12 years. Some on my side say we cannot touch that.

If we can't touch that, and the other side says we have to have a big tax break, you begin to wonder what can we do around here? Goodness knows, if we can't correct a mistake, which I believe the CPI is in terms of adjusting for the cost of living based on the best evidence that we have, what can we do? If our friends on the other side want to have dessert before we start eating our vegetables in the face of this enormous challenge of these long-term fiscal imbalances, then how serious are they really about addressing the challenges facing America's future?

We have an opportunity here to do something great for America, because this isn't just some dry discussion about making columns of numbers add up. That isn't what this is about. This is not a counting exercise. This is about the future economic strength of America. This is about what kind of jobs are going to be available for our kids. This is about what kind of life future Americans are going to enjoy. This is about the competitive position of America. That is what is at stake. It is not just some dull, lifeless debate about balancing a budget. This discus-

sion is about what we can do to strengthen America for the future and the difference that we can make in the lives of the people of our country by being responsible now, because what we have been told is, if we balance this budget in this window of opportunity we have before the baby boomers start to retire, our economy in the future will be 30 percent larger than if we fail to act.

Some may be listening to this saying, "Wait a minute. I am lost. What is the connection between balancing the budget now and having a bigger economy later?" It is very simple, but it is very real. If we are going to grow the economy, if we are going to make it bigger, if we are going to have more jobs, we need investment. To have investment you have to have savings. The biggest threat to savings in this country is the deficits that the Federal Government runs, because those deficits take money out of the pool of savings of our society.

That is why this debate matters. It is perhaps the single most important debate we will have in this Congress this year. If we all do it seriously and honestly and face our responsibilities squarely, we can do something great for our country.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### THE NOMINATION OF PETE PETERSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise this evening to address an issue which is one that many of us have labored over for decades, the legacy of the Vietnam war.

So many people have said and written that the returning veterans did not receive the credit which they deserved for putting their lives on the line for our Nation. Regardless of the wisdom or popularity of that war, so many of those veterans came home and, frankly, found it difficult to start their lives again in America.

In this Congress of the United States about 12,000 men and women have served in the House of Representatives, and it is my understanding that 1,843 men and women have served in this U.S. Senate.

It was my good fortune to serve in the House before I came to the Senate and my better fortune to meet an extraordinary individual in the House of Representatives, a Vietnam veteran, who had an amazing story to tell. This colleague of mine in the House from the State of Florida, Pete Peterson, was an Air Force pilot in the Vietnam war. Pete served 27 years in the Air Force. He gave most of his adult life in service to his country. But the most amazing part of his service in Vietnam was not in an airplane in the clouds but on the ground. For 6½ years Pete

Peterson was a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

He is a very soft-spoken and friendly person. He hardly ever brings up the subject about his military service. But one day over lunch, I said, "Pete, if you are not uncomfortable to talk about it, tell us what you remember about those 6½ years." For the next hour Pete spoke and answered our questions from his colleagues in the House. I will tell you that my memory of that conversation will be with me for the rest of my life. To try for a moment to envision or imagine what it must have been like to spend 6½ years in a prison camp in North Vietnam is almost beyond any of us. He talked about the deprivations, physical and mental, and how he managed to survive.

Pete is not one to boast about it. He is not alone in having gone through that experience. Our colleague from Arizona, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, had a similar experience as prisoner of war in Vietnam. I have not spoken to my colleague, JOHN MCCAIN about it. But I read about it in a book published recently entitled "The Nightingale Song," which told the history and the story of others who went through that experience.

The interesting thing about Pete Peterson is that he came out of that experience, went to work in Florida, and decided that there was more to give to this country. So he ran for the U.S. House of Representatives and was elected.

Then in April of last year President Clinton turned to then Congressman Pete Peterson and asked him to undertake what was a major responsibility, to serve as the first U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam. It was a controversial posting. Some in this body and others really questioned whether or not we should have diplomatic relations. But many, like Pete Peterson and JOHN MCCAIN, believe that we have reached that moment in history where the best thing for both of our countries is to have diplomatic relations. I thought the President made a wise choice.

Those who watched the program 60 Minutes which was on last Sunday night may have seen the segment about Pete Peterson, once a downed pilot in a rice paddy in Vietnam, pushed away into a prison camp for 6½ years, now with the opportunity to return as the Ambassador from the United States of America to Vietnam and, I am certain, to return to that same village and meet the people who held him at bay and pushed him into that prisoner-of-war camp.

So Pete Peterson's name was put up and suggested, and the reaction was positive. People said what a fitting choice to take someone who has been through this life experience, who has endured this time as a prisoner of war, and to ask him to serve as our Ambassador in Vietnam.

Of course, his name was submitted to the Senate at that point for confirma-

tion. Some problems arose and questions about whether or not as a sitting Congressman he could be appointed to a post that was created during his term in office. But after all was said and done, his name was resubmitted this year in January, and he received a favorable hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In fact, his sponsors at his hearing included not only his home State Senator, Senator GRAHAM of Florida, but also Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a man from the opposite side of the aisle who identified with Pete's experience and said that he would be an excellent choice as the Ambassador to Vietnam.

So we come this evening to the Chamber in the hopes that we can make it clear that his name, Pete Peterson's name, will come before this Senate for consideration and, I hope, confirmation in the very near future.

The majority leader, Senator LOTT, and I had a conversation on this subject earlier in the day. He was kind enough to return to the Chamber for this moment to speak to this issue. I thank my colleague for doing that. I will at this point yield the floor so the Senator from Mississippi may make comments on this confirmation of Pete Peterson.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator from Illinois will yield, I will be glad to respond to his comments. They have certainly been very good ones.

We all understand and appreciate and agree with the remarks about the tremendous service and the quality of man that Pete Peterson is. I am satisfied that he would be a great representative for our country in any position, whether it be an easy one, great luxury, or a tough one, as this one will be when he is confirmed.

The Senator is right that there are those of us in the Chamber and in America who doubt the wisdom of going forward with this normalization with Vietnam for a variety of reasons. Particularly, the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH, has raised a lot of questions and concerns over the years about POWs and missing in action, accounting for those POWs. He is very concerned about those servicemen that have not been identified, have not been accounted for. He has made that very clear. He has serious doubts that Vietnam is actually doing all that it can do or all it has said it would do in moving toward normalization and accounting for those POW/MIAs, and he has asked me as majority leader in a very good, strong letter, lengthy letter to give him an opportunity to ask some questions and get some answers.

I try to honor that kind of request for any Senator on either side of the aisle whenever I can within reason. And I have also joined him through my staff that deals with the Intelligence Committee to work with the intelligence staff to try to get a report or

reports in response to the questions that Senator SMITH has asked.

Those reports may not be sufficient or they may not be good, but Senator SMITH has indicated he has no desire to hold this nomination up at length. In fact, I think he would agree with me and the Senator that this is an excellent choice for any position.

So it is my intent, barring some unforeseen complication, that this nomination would be brought up on Tuesday or Wednesday the week we come back. I believe that would be the 8th or 9th. I do not think it would be appropriate to hold it up beyond that. And again, barring something that I cannot imagine right now—and, of course, assuming that over the next 2½ weeks we will get these reports—we would call that nomination up. I think we would be able to do that, and I certainly want to. I do not see any reason why we would not be able to based on my conversations with Senator SMITH.

We appreciate the interest of the Senator in his former colleague from the House, and look forward to working with the Senator on this and other issues.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the majority leader. This will be good news in Marianna, FL, where Pete Peterson is waiting for word on his new assignment. He has accepted the important assignment for this country. He has given so much more than any of us have ever been asked to give. And this new assignment to Vietnam is one that Pete takes very seriously.

My colleague and friend from Mississippi, the majority leader, has raised an important critical issue of the unaccounted for POWs and MIAs. I cannot think of a person who will take that responsibility more seriously than Pete Peterson, who knows men whom he served with in the Air Force and other branches who are not accounted for. And I am certain that he will work with diligence to try to establish their whereabouts to the satisfaction of their families as quickly as possible.

Of course, in terms of our relations with Vietnam, that debate will go on, and our relationship with that country will be decided based on the conduct of Vietnam toward the United States and vice versa. A man of Pete Peterson's stature I think will enhance that relationship, and I am confident that when he is called for consideration on Tuesday or Wednesday after we return, he will receive strong bipartisan support for this assignment.

I thank the majority leader for coming to the floor. I know he has a very busy schedule, but I consider this an important matter, as I am sure he does. I appreciate his cooperation. I thank my colleague from Arkansas for giving me this opportunity to speak first.

I yield back my time.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Will the Senator from Arkansas allow me to put a couple brief

statements in the RECORD and make a unanimous consent request. This should not take very long at all.

Mr. BUMPERS. My pleasure, Mr. President.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAM ADCOCK

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding staffer and dear friend of mine, Sam Adcock.

For the past 7 years, Sam has served not only as my national security advisor, but as one of my most-trusted and able advisors. Sam is moving on to other challenges, but it is my privilege to commend him for the service he has provided me and the Senate as a whole.

The youngest of four children born to Pat and Larry Adcock, Sam was born in Baton Rouge, LA, and although Sam was not a native Mississippian, he assured me he had relatives in the Magnolia State.

I am not sure what effect being the youngest in such a large family had on Sam, but I think it must have played some part in cultivating his competitive nature.

It is this, combined with a gut instinct for effective legislation, which has made Sam Adcock such an important part of my team.

Sam joined my staff as a full-time employee in 1990, after serving for a year as a military liaison. He served as my legislative assistant while I was a member of the Armed Services Committee, and quickly sank his teeth into the complicated process of military appropriations.

Mississippi's shipyards and military bases owe Sam Adcock a debt of gratitude for the countless hours he spent arguing on their behalf.

During the 1991, 1993, and 1995 Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] procedures, due in large part to Sam's hard work, Mississippi was the only State that had no bases closed.

Among the many areas where Sam's expertise was invaluable to me were the development of the LHA and LHD programs. Perhaps one of our greatest legislative triumphs was working in 1995 to help Ingalls Shipbuilding of Pascagoula, MS, win the \$1.4 billion contract for LHD 7.

Sam worked around the clock to help Ingalls win this contract so important to the men and women of Jackson County, MS, but that was not unusual for him. I know Mississippians would be proud to know how relentlessly Sam pursued what was in their State's best interests.

The country, too, should be proud to have had such a champion of strong military ideals fighting to preserve our Nation's military prowess. I could always count on Sam to go into a meeting for me and come away with the best possible deal for Mississippi and our country as a whole.

In addition to his service as my armed services advisor, Sam was pro-

moted to the position of legislative director. He has always been a take-charge kind of guy, and he ensured that my office's legislative staff was prepared and proactive. As effective as Sam's leadership was, he was also one of the most well-liked members of my staff.

While those who have worked against Sam know what a formidable opponent he is, those who have worked with him know what a pleasant and approachable man he can be.

As Sam Adcock moves on to a new and exciting position as vice-president for government operations at Daimler Benz, I wish him, his wife Carol, and their young son Austin, the best of luck.

Sam exemplifies all that is good in the congressional staffers who work so hard here on Capitol Hill. He is honest, industrious, intelligent, and talented.

My office will be poorer for his departure, but the people of this country are richer from his time as a Senate staffer. For his loyal and dedicated service, I thank him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM GRAHNE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to express the gratitude of the Senate to Jim Grahne, the director of our Senate Recording and Photographic Studios. Jim is retiring this week after 27 years of dedicated service to the Senate.

Jim Grahne has been one of our most talented technical and management professionals in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

He is an engineer by training and profession and has used his skill, creativity and expertise to shepherd the Senate through nearly 30 years of broadcast and photographic technology. I am referring to the television, radio and photographic services on which we as members, and as an institution, so readily rely.

It was Jim's leadership that made technically possible the broadcast of the proceedings of the Senate floor.

While that accomplishment may be one of his professional highlights, he always sought ways to improve products and services to members.

Some of the recent successes of Jim and his staff include the installation of a fiber optic network for the broadcast of committee hearings, CD-Rom and on-line photo data base services for members' offices. Jim and his staff have also pioneered the use of closed captioning text, audio and visual technologies.

This year the studios released full text and audio search and retrieval of floor proceedings. Offices may now search for and download any speech or debate text and audio with 15 minutes of its being given.

Our gratitude for Jim is not limited to his understanding and appreciation for technology. Because he came to the Senate from the commercial news and broadcast industry, he understands the

importance of the press and of the role played by visual and sound images.

Every day that the proceedings of the Senate are made available to the press here and around the world, it is an affirmation and practical example of democracy in action. That goal has been an important part of Jim's motivation.

Mr. President, our Senate family wishes Jim and Linda, his wife of 34 years, and their children—Mark, Lena, and Karen—the very best and hope he gets some time to spend on that sailboat with his granddaughter, Megan. But, knowing Jim as we do, we can expect his sleeves will be rolled up and into another challenge in the very near future.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS

##### MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 27, S. 104, the nuclear waste bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of colleagues on this side of the aisle, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the nuclear waste bill and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 104, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982:

Trent Lott, Larry Craig, John Ashcroft, Dan Coats, Tim Hutchinson, Sam Brownback, Mitch McConnell, Conrad Burns, Frank Murkowski, Jon Kyl, Connie Mack, Spencer Abraham, Chuck Hagel, John McCain, Don Nickles, and Gordon Smith.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I regret the objection from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I know the Senator from Illinois was objecting on behalf of other Senators that could be directly affected by this issue. I have filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill. So I now ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote be at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, and the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. In light of this agreement to conduct this cloture vote on Tuesday, April 8, I now announce that there